



# Walworth Historical Society



Volume 43

May 2019

Number 5

Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568

WHS Website: [www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org)

*Editor's note: Each year since 1990 (except for one year) the Walworth Historical Society has chosen a person(s) or organization that best exemplifies the idea of volunteering time for the betterment of our community. We honor them with our Community Service Award at our May meeting at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park.*



## WHS Community Service Award Winner: Steve Gallaher

By Becky Appleman

The Walworth Historical Society is proud to present this year's Community Service Award to Steve Gallaher, a man who believes in volunteering.

Steve grew up on Albright Road in Lincoln. His father was a Lincoln Fire Department member so it was only natural for Steve to join in 1994 when he was nineteen years old. He also enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves while still in high school. After graduation he served four years in the reserves.

He has been a Lincoln Fire Department member for 25 years. Steve has held the position of chief, assistant chief, captain, training officer, and vice-president and is currently on the Board of Directors for his second time. He helped establish the fire department's Explorer Post in 1999.

He works with the New York State Department of Homeland Security Office of Fire Prevention and Control, is a part-time New York State fire instructor for Wayne County, teaches fire training courses and has done this for 13 years.

Steve has been involved with Boy Scouts since 1982 and he is an Eagle Scout. He is a chartered organization representative and a den leader. He is currently a member of the Wayne Central School Board of Education and also chairman of the Walworth Conservative Party.

Besides all these activities, Steve also owns and operates his own construction business. He and his wife Amy have been married for 19 years and they have three children: Emily 15, Grace 11, and Joey 7.

Steve not only volunteers throughout our town but the entire county.

**(Color printing of this page courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union)**

### 2019 Calendar of Events

May 20	6:15 PM	Annual Meeting Ginegaw Lodge
June 10	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
July 26	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park Parade / Booth
July 27	3-8 PM	Festival in the Park Day 2 / Booth
Aug. 12	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
Sept. 16	7:30 PM	General Meeting "Iron Ore Mining"
Oct. 6	2-4 PM	Open House
Oct. 14	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
Nov. 18	1:00 PM	General Meeting "Soup & Spiritualism" Ginegaw Lodge
Dec. 7	6:00 PM	"Light the Night" Ginegaw Park
Dec. 9	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees

## WHS Museum Summer Schedule



**WHS museum on Academy Street**

Our museum will be open on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 – 4 PM June through September. Appointments for other days can be made by contacting Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Gene Bavis at 315-573-2768. The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street. Volunteers are needed on Sundays and Wednesdays to “museum sit.” We have put together a binder of helpful information regarding the museum and its contents. We encourage our volunteers to bring their cell phone and a friend to share this opportunity of helping others learn about our past. Contact Judy McMillan at 315-524-4219 if you can give us a couple of hours.

Visitors are invited to spend an hour or two browsing through scrapbooks donated by Dorothy Petty, Anna May, and the Walworth Chamber of Commerce, or checking out the various displays depicting life from not so long ago. We have several photo binders chocked full of scenes from around our area. For the genealogists, local cemetery records have been catalogued by Doug Churchill for easy access in addition to obituaries and wedding/engagement information.

### Turning Back the Pages: 1922 and 1923 Minutes By Dorothy French

*The following are excerpts from the 1922 and 1923 minutes of Walworth Town Board. Meetings were held at the town clerk's office at Lincoln (home of W. C. Leaty).*

**Jan. 7, 1922:** Accepted resignation of George J. Frowley as Justice of the Peace. Leander Baker appointed to succeed. Motion made and carried that Town Highway Supt. post signs at Seeley Corners and Nims Corners, noting road under construction and “proceed at own risk.”

**Feb. 25, 1922:** Attending: Supervisor George Frowley, Road Supt. James Downs, Justices Leander Baker, Walter Kippel and George Burrow, and Town Clerk W. C. Leaty. Agreed to pay town supt. 75 cents per day for use of his auto and to furnish him with gas and oil for same.

**Apr. 26, 1922:** Town Board met at culvert on Muck Street in Town of Walworth to consider construction of culvert on east end of Muck Street. Voted to destroy old sluice and build new one.

**Sept. 18, 1922:** Polling places designated: Basement of Walworth Grange Hall, Stalker Hall in West Walworth, and Lincoln Grange Hall. Simeon Russel appointed Attendant Officer for 1922-1923 school year at a salary of \$100. Town Supt. of Highways will be paid \$5.75 per day. Town Clerk allowed \$50 road allowance and Supervisor \$175 for road allowance.

**Nov. 9, 1922:** Agreed to form committee for purpose of purchasing a piece of land large enough to erect a building for the shelter of town tools.

**March 22, 1923:** Approved formation of lighting district in village of East Walworth.

**April 26, 1923:** Granted Walworth Light and Power Co., Inc. a franchise to construct an electric light line in the Town of Walworth.

### Burly the Bull By Dorothy French

*Editor's Notes: Lucien Ingraham was the son of Lucien T. and Susan (Cleveland) Yeomans. The farm/dairy was located at 2017 Walworth-Penfield Road, formerly known as the Stoddard/Tulloch place and is now owned by James Sauer.*



**The horns of Burly the Bull**

Did you know that the remains of a famous Holstein-Friesian bull reside in our museum? It's true! The horns of Burly the Bull have been saved and preserved through the years by descendants of Theron G. Yeomans, who brought the first herd of Holstein-Friesians to Walworth in 1879.

A December 13, 1944 letter from Lucien I. Yeomans, Theron's grandson, was mailed to Donald Huntley, the great-great-great-grandson of Theron, with information about the horns. According to Lucien, when the Yeomans family left Walworth in 1904, the horns were salvaged, mounted, and sent to him for storage. The horns had hung in the granary in the bull barn on the Stoddard place where the dairy was located.

A bit of history about Burly: He was born in Peterboro, NY, in 1878, and came to Walworth in the spring of 1880. His sire was Billy Boelyn, and many famous lines have been traced through his ancestry.



## Walworth Area Country Doctors: Dr. Rodenberger

By Dorothy French

*Editor's Note: Our series about country doctors continues; this issue features Dr. Rodenberger.*

**Dr. Rodenberger is shown with his horse and buggy in the 1920's along the east side of Main Street, Walworth just south of Center Street.**



Dr. Edward M. Rodenberger was born in Fayette, Seneca County, on March 30, 1860 and graduated from Geneva High School 20 years later. He graduated from the University of Ohio in 1885 and also attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor for two years. After the completion of his college work, Dr. Rodenberger moved to Palmyra and later to Geneva where he went into practice with the father of his bride-to-be. He married Ella Herendeen on May 30, 1885 in Geneva.

He was an old-fashioned country doctor and administered to his patients in several towns, including Macedon, Walworth, Palmyra, and Farmington. When he first started his practice, he walked many miles a day to visit his patients. As his practice increased, he was able to buy a horse and eventually a buggy in which he made his calls.

After residing in Walworth for 17 years, Dr. Rodenberger sold the partial-cobblestone house located on the southeast corner of Church Street and Penfield-Walworth Road to Dr. Ernest Esley and moved to Macedon.

One of the doctor's hobbies was his boat, a 38-foot cabin cruiser which took him seven years to build. At the public launch of his boat, the 76-year-old Dr. Rodenberger stated: *Goodness knows, you folks have been waiting enough years for this – so climb aboard and have a good look.* With those words and the ceremonial bottle of champagne to christen the boat "Doc," his man-made boat was launched on the waters of the Barge Canal.

Dr. Rodenberger died in 1943; Ella passed away in 1938. They are buried in Farmington Cemetery.

## We Had a Seat and Took a Tour of Walworth

By Bob Mogray

On Monday, March 18 at our museum on Academy Street, the Walworth Historical Society held its regular March meeting and also sponsored a virtual tour of the Walworth hamlet. There was excellent attendance as we used our digital video projector to present a Microsoft Powerpoint show for all who attended. Included in this program were current photos of some of the main buildings, homes, and businesses in and around the center of town. For each slide, a few current and/or historical facts were presented. There were many questions, comments, and some great discussion also. Much of the information we obtain about past history comes from the personal accounts of our members.

A significant amount of the information for this program was taken from a new document that includes a much more detailed account of the history and current facts of these places in the hamlet of Walworth. This booklet is available in printed form at the museum and also on our website at [www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org). Much of the historical information in this expanded booklet came from historical stories that were in past newsletters which are published five times per year and include information about people and places in the Walworth area. Several years of these newsletters are also available on our website.

The meeting ended with some great refreshments provided by our hospitality committee. The WHS officers and trustees wish to thank those who attended this meeting. Because of the success of these programs, we will continue to present programs that hopefully will be of interest to our members and guests. Some of the tour places are shown below.



**A Tour of Main Street: #3700 – Youngman’s Variety Store - Part 4** By Gordon Youngman

*Editor’s Note: Our tour of the east side of Main Street continues from our last issue. The building at #3700 was the site of many businesses. Part 4 features ownership by Gordon and Katie Youngman. Thank you to Gordon and his grandson, Aaron Fernaays, for sharing their memories and for the time they spent researching and documenting the information about the stores located at 3698 and 3700 Main Street.*

**(All photos courtesy of Gordon Youngman)**

**The following are excerpts from information documented by Gordon in March 2000:**

In 1950 Katie and I rented the variety store from Joe and Lorraine Finley and I moved my ice cream business from the “little store” across the road. In 1963 we purchased the building from the Finleys. By 1965 we had expanded the inventory to a point where we needed more retail space so an addition was added on the north side and back of the store to double the floor space. This made it possible not only to add to the original inventory but to offer new items. Doing business under Youngman’s Variety Store we carried such items as all types of dry goods including clothing, footwear, sewing accessories, toys, jewelry, patent drugs and drug sundries, school supplies, greeting cards, records, and candy.



**1965: Before the addition to the north and back of the store.**



**1965: Gordon supervising the remodeling project.**

Aaron Fernaays, Gordon’s and Katie’s grandson, said “The biggest highlight of this store was the soda fountain. Customers could stop by for a Coke or a milkshake and relax for a while. Youngman’s Variety became a social place for people. Most of their customers were regulars that they knew well. Kids also liked the store because they could pick up some candy or a comic book.” The soda fountain was removed in 1978.



**1977-78: On the right Youngman’s Variety/ on the left, Walworth Hardware.**



**After the addition to the north and back of store.**



I bought the Walworth Hardware store, the former Knights of the Macabees (K.O.T.M.) building to the south of the variety store, from the estate of Jack Wick in 1972. I had a walkway built between the Walworth Hardware store on the south and Youngman’s Variety Store on the north. This made it easy for customers to visit each side of the store. I kept both stores the same. Jack’s former building was still a hardware store and my business remained a variety store. Although both stores were now under the same ownership, they were run as separate stores.

***To Be Continued: Part 5 – Walworth Hardware***



**Memories of Walworth Summers and Vacations** By Bob Mogray



On Sunday, April 7 the Walworth Historical Society held another session of its "Walworth Memories" series. These get-togethers are designed to have people meet at our museum to share and discuss their experiences and memories of various topics in their lives. This meeting was all about our past summer vacations and activities. Some of the attendees who grew up here told stories of working and playing at local areas. They discussed going to nearby beaches and water areas, taking day trips to relatively close areas such as Rochester and Buffalo, and going on camping trips with their parents to the mountains. Shown in the left photo are Dorothy French (left), Mary Jane Devlin (center) and Gene Bavis (right).

Others told of longer summer vacations either with their parents or by themselves later in life to more distant areas such as Yosemite National Park and the Grand Canyon. Some stayed in hotels but most related stories of travelling in small campers or cars with their families. One common theme was trying to see bears at various trash dumps. However, quite a few of those in attendance told that mostly they just hung out locally with friends and siblings when they were younger.

This session was the 29<sup>th</sup> Walworth Memories program we have hosted. Many subjects have been shared by those who joined in these discussion and the experiences were documented by Dorothy French, Judy McMillan and Mary Jane Devlin. These memories have been entered into our computer, indexed in great detail, and printed out at the museum for all to share. The Walworth Historical Society wishes to thank those who took time out of their busy schedules to attend these meetings in order to share memories and experiences.

**WHS Provided the Gateway Apartments With Photos** By Bob Mogray

The new Gateway Apartments in Walworth are located on Academy Street directly across the road from the Walworth Historical Society museum. Originally on this site stood the first Walworth Academy which was built in 1842 and later the second Walworth Academy (high school) which was built in 1857. In 1930 the two buildings were demolished and Walworth High School was built to accommodate grades K – 12; the school closed in 1980 due to centralization by Wayne Central School District.

A few years later, this building was modified and then became low-income rental units. This project eventually failed and the building fell into disrepair as it stood abandoned for years. In April of 2014 the building was torn down to make room for the current Walworth Gateway Apartments. Late in 2018 the units began to be rented out as senior living facilities. At this time there are still empty units available for rental.

The Walworth Historical Society was asked to provide electronic files of some of the previous buildings that stood on this site. Several of the old black and white photos of earlier schools and color photo files of the final demolition of the high school were provided. The plan is to have them printed and displayed inside the new apartment building for the residents to see. The WHS also provided documents that told details of the history of the schools that previously stood there since 1842. Below are three of the photos provided by the WHS to the Gateway Apartments.



**Membership Dues Are Due** By Mary Jane Devlin

The Walworth Historical Society fiscal year is from May 1 to April 30. Your membership dues are due May 1 unless you are a Life Member or have paid dues in advance. There is a red dot on your address label if you owe dues as of May 1, 2019. Members who receive their newsletter by email will receive a notice by email. If you have questions about when your membership expires, please contact the treasurer, Linda Pembroke, at 585-455-7595 or check your membership card.

There are several categories of membership in WHS: Student \$5; Individual \$10; Joint or Family \$15; Supporter \$25; Corporate or Business \$75, Sponsor \$50, Patron \$100, Life \$150. By choosing to join at a higher level of membership, you will enable us to continue to expand our program presentations and add to our collection of historical items, as well as restore and preserve the items that are already in our collection. If you are a Life Member, you are encouraged to make a donation, if you wish, so we can remain an active organization in town. Your membership dues and donations are tax deductible, if you use the long form.

Please pay dues at the annual meeting in May or send your check to the Walworth Historical Society at the address listed on the front of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at a meeting or at the museum in the near future. Thank you for your continued support.

**NOTE:** If your address, telephone number or e-mail address changes, please notify Bob Mogray so there is no interruption in receiving your newsletter.

**Our Collection Continues to Grow** By Jessie Keymel

Many times we receive inquiries from residents wanting to know the history of their homes or the stories of family members who lived and farmed here. You have the history of your house in your deed. We have old maps, photos, and many scrapbooks and diaries that may give you some information.

If you are searching for family genealogy, we have listed on our web site the families who have shared their findings with us. We also have many family and school photos that have been donated over the years. These documents are in our museum and can be viewed anytime by appointment or during our open hours.

The museum is open 2:00 - 4:00 PM every Wednesday and Sunday during the months of June through September or anytime by appointment. This is an excellent time for you to volunteer as a docent and become familiar with some of our many collections.

My plea to you is: If you have information, please share it with us so that we can file your finds and have it available when we get future inquiries.

**In Memoriam: Mary DeMinck** By Jessie Keymel

Sadly we have lost another member of our Historical Society. Mary DeMinck passed away on March 5, 2019. Mary was one of our past trustees and shared her knowledge of antiques with us, often lending items for our displays. Mary and her husband Herbert operated a dairy farm on Tummonds Road where she raised chickens (see the story on page 7 in this issue about the framed hooked rug and their barn). She will be missed by us and her seven surviving children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**The DeMinck Farm** By Jessie Keymel and Wendy DeMinck

In our March issue we wrote about the framed hooked rug that was donated by Caryn Devlin, Marion historian and avid rug hooker, to the Walworth Historical Society as a fund raising project. Tickets may be purchased from any board member listed on page 8 of this newsletter. Here is some history about the property, a former dairy farm, located on Tummonds Road.

During the early 1880's the Tummonds brothers built three farmsteads in Walworth. The property at #2291 was owned by D. Tummonds and family. After his ownership the property fell to several tenants. During April of 1941 the property was purchased by Herbert and Mary DeMinck. They raised their family and farmed until Herbert's death. The DeMinck's were a dairy farm family from 1941 until 2010; there was a time when Herb raised a large group of pigs. On the house side of Tummonds Road was a huge chicken house with about 600 chickens; many people bought eggs from Mary.

From 1980 to 2010 the farm was owned and operated by their son Larry, his wife Dianne and their daughters; Mary stayed until 1980. Larry's last herd was beef cows and dairy heifers. Most of the kids in the area helped bring in hay to stack in DeMinck's barn.

The Genesee Land Grant purchased the property in 2015 from Larry and it is currently owned and operated by Adam and Courtney Craft. Thank you, Wendy DeMinck Walker, for the history and Larry for a quick rundown on the life of the barn.



**Above is a photo of the actual framed hook rug that Caryn Devlin created and donated to the Walworth Historical Society.**

**To the right is the original picture that was the inspiration for this work of art.**





**Awards, A Show About 1969, and a Dish to Pass**      By Bob Mogray

Just a reminder that on **Monday, May 20** the WHS will hold its annual meeting at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park. It will begin at 6:15 PM with a pot-luck supper. WHS will provide the ham, rolls, and beverages; attendees should bring their place settings and a dish to pass. The actual meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and will include nomination and election of officers as well as the presentation of our Community Service Award. This year it will be presented to Steve Gallaher.

There will also be a short video slide presentation program "1969 – 50 years ago." We will show you some popular culture, state, national, international events, and some local stuff from 1969. We hope to see you at this annual meeting to vote for officers and board members, enjoy the food, honor our award winner, and enjoy the show. Some general photos from last year's meeting are shown below.



**WHS Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs**

**Officers and Trustees**

<b>President</b>	<b>Jessie Keymel</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 9205</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Robert Mogray</b>	<b>(585) 576 - 4156</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Judy McMillan</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 4219</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Linda Pembroke</b>	<b>(585) 455 - 7595</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Becky Appleman</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 3289</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Gene Bavis</b>	<b>(315) 573 - 2768</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Mary Jane Devlin</b>	<b>(315) 986 - 1512</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Dorothy French</b>	<b>(315) 986 - 1098</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Judy Markowski</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 8649</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Larry Ruth</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 7936</b>

**Committees and Chairpersons**

<b>Bldg. Maint.</b>	<b>Gene Bavis</b>	<b>(315) 573 - 2768</b>
<b>Collections</b>	<b>Jessie Keymel</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 9205</b>
<b>Displays-Museum</b>	<b>Judy Markowski</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 8649</b>
<b>Displays-Town Hall</b>	<b>Judy McMillan</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 4219</b>
<b>Genealogy</b>	<b>Ellen Dietterick</b>	<b>(585) 200 - 4685</b>
<b>Grounds</b>	<b>Judy McMillan</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 4219</b>
<b>Grounds</b>	<b>Becky Appleman</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 3289</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Liz Bavis</b>	<b>(585) 802 - 0380</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Marlene Slocum</b>	<b>(585) 289 - 7080</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Linda Pembroke</b>	<b>(585) 455 - 7595</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Bob Mogray</b>	<b>(585) 576 - 4156</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Becky Appleman</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 3289</b>
<b>Town Historian</b>	<b>Gene Bavis</b>	<b>(315) 573 - 2768</b>

Mission Statement: The Walworth Historical Society is a volunteer organization established in 1975. Our chartered purpose is to collect, preserve, and display items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the Town of Walworth and its environs. We are a not-for-profit organization with 501(C)(3) status; donations are tax deductible.

**Level of Membership**

___ Student	\$ 5.00
___ Individual	\$ 10.00
___ Family	\$ 15.00
___ Supporter	\$ 25.00
___ Sponsor	\$ 50.00
___ Patron	\$ 100.00
___ Life Member	\$ 150.00
___ Corp./Business	\$ 75.00

\_\_\_ I am interested in making a tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_ I am interested in making a tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in  
 memory of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_ I am interested in joining and have checked the membership level.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to: Walworth Historical Society, and mail it to P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. *Thank you!*



**May 2019 WHS Email Newsletter Extra Photos**

(All photos on this page are of places discussed at the virtual tour meeting)







**These are two aerial photos of Walworth, New York. The top one was taken circa 1980 and the one to the right was taken circa 1983.**

